Special Duty Allowance. It has not been possible to take a decision on this demand so far because the matter is *sub-judice* as review applications are pending on this issue before the Principal Bench of Central Administrative Tribunal, Delhi.

(c) In view of (b) above, does not arise.

Electronic Telephone Exchanges in Arunachal Pradesh

1900. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up more electronic telephone exchanges in the country particularly in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, what is the total number of electronic and non-electronic exchanges at present in Arunachal Pradesh; and

(c) by when non-electronic telephone exchanges are likely to be converted into electronic exchanges in the State of Arunachal Pradesh?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are 28 electronic and 9 Nos. of non-electronic exchanges in Arunachal Pradesh.

(c) The non-electronic exchanges in Arunachal Pradesh are planned to be replaced by electronic exchanges progressively in 8th Plan period.

Expansion of Telephone Network

1901. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to have 20 million phones by 2000 A.D. as reported in the *Economic Times* of the 6th February 1992;

(b) if so, what are the details of the plans indicating how the existing and primary units in Karnataka and other places will be expanded; and

(c) whether Government propose to select any place in Karnataka near Jog Falls etc. and near Halebid shrine which may develop as zero pollution industrial areas?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Perspective plan 2000 AD envisages:

- To reduce the waiting period for a telephone substantially, to the order of a few months by increasing the growth rate of providing telephone connections from about 10% to 18%.
- Provision of Telephone facility in every village.
- Provision of Highway telephone facility.
- All exchanges to have national subscriber dialling facility.
- Provision of Bureaufax facility at each telegraph office.

Depending on the availability of resources both physical and financial, the telephone network of Karnataka Circle is expected to expand from 3.47 lakh telephone connections as on 31.1.92 to around 12 lakh telephone connections by 2000 A.D. and telephone would be extended to all 26826 villages of the State.

(c) No, Sir.

Restriction on the Duration of Local Calls

1902. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to restrict the duration of local calls of telephones throughout the country; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The proposal to introduce time metering of local calls is still under the consideration of the Government.

(b) This is proposed mainly to decongest the system so as to improve the call success rate.